



**CITY OF WILLIAMSBURG**  
MEMORANDUM

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**TO: Planning Commission**

**DATE: April 10, 2003**

**SUBJECT: Sharpe Community Partnership Program  
Off-Campus Housing Web Site**

The Planning Department participated again this year with the Sharpe Community Partnership Program at the College of William and Mary. According to the College, "The Sharpe Community Partnership is residential program that extends William and Mary's long-held tradition of public and community service. Nurturing both responsible citizenship and energetic involvement in the community is part of the College's mission. In the spirit of our mission and traditions, students who participate will live in Sharpe residences, enroll in program-sponsored seminars, take part in public forums, and work on community projects – all as a way of encouraging first year students to explore issues in our national life and to become directly involved in these issues through public service."

Last year's project was on the impact of off-campus student housing, and the report was presented to Planning Commission. Printed copies were included as part of the background information on the Rental Housing Registration and Inspection Program. This year's program, which started with a nice bike ride around the City, continued the focus on off-campus student housing with the development of an Off-Campus Housing Web site. Issues that were addressed included:

- City regulations pertaining to off-campus housing
- Responsibilities and expectations for students moving off-campus and becoming part of the Williamsburg Community
- What to look for when you are searching for an apartment
- What to do if you have problems with your unit
- Information of Virginia Landlord-Tenant Act
- Information of the Williamsburg Area Transport bus system
- Information on City parking rules and regulations
- Listing of available rental housing

Freshman students Wess Garner, Susanna Klosko, Joseph Locke, Diana Sherban, and Tim Slattery were the project team, assisted by Sharpe Fellow and Senior Frannie Ames. We have met weekly at the Planning Department over the past year developing the web site, and the students made a presentation to City Council at the April 7 work session. The presentation to Planning Commission will conclude this year's project.

Reed T. Nester  
Planning Director